THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No project proposals have been received from the State Government of Punjab in the current Financial Year.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Access of tourists in North-East

405. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to restrictions, tourists are not allowed to access several States in the north-eastern India;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating principal reasons for imposing such restrictions;

(c) whether Government have decided to promote tourism in the North-East by lifting curbs in restricted areas for tourists;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the basis, on which, the curbs are being lifted?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) These restrictions are on account of various reasons such as proximity to international borders, law and order situation etc.

(c) to (e) The review of restrictions is a continuous process and is undertaken by the Ministry of Home Affairs on receipt of proposals from the concerned States and in consultation with the security agencies.

Heritage places in Rajasthan

†406. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the action being taken by the Central Government at its own level or in collaboration with the State Government towards the development of tourist and heritage places in Rajasthan; and

(b) the details of amount spent during the last three years in this regard, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/UT Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations for tourism related projects which are identified in consultation and interaction with them under schemes for Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations/Circuits and Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

Project proposals received from the State Governments/Union Territories that are complete in all respects are approved on the basis of *inter-se* priority and funds released subject to availability under respective heads.

A project 'Floodlighting of monuments in Rajasthan' has been sanctioned for Rs.800.00 lakh in the current financial year.

(b) Details of CFA released for development of tourism heritage places in Rajasthan year-wise during the last three years is given below:

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	Amount
2006-07	953.84
2005-06	2099.69
2004-05	2519.06

Cruise Tourism

†407. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to promote tourism in the country by identifying some of the ports as cruise tourism centres in the coastal areas of India;

(b) if so, the names of such ports; and

(c) by when these cruise tourism centres would be developed?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Ministry of Tourism promotes Cruise Tourism in India through India tourism offices in domestic and overseas markets.

(b) and (c) The draft Cruise Shipping Policy of the Ministry of Shipping provides for development of cruise facilities in ports in a phased manner.

New tourism policy

†408. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of those State Governments including Delhi Government which have formulated new tourism policy to develop tourist spots and to attract large number of foreign tourists;

(b) whether Government have approved the above policy. State-wise; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.